

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /072 W

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FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6535

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JOHANNESBURG 2089

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PINT, SF

SUBJECT: WORLD NEWSPAPER PUTS THE ISSUE OF THE COMMITTEE OF TEN TO THE

PEOPLE

REF: JOHANNESBURG 2065

1. IN THE APPARENT REALIZATION THAT THE SAG PLANS TO IGNORE THE COMMITTEE OF TEN BLUEPRINT, DESPITE THE ENCOURAGING SUPPORT IT DREW FROM MANY SECTORS (INCLUDING CERTAIN NATIONALIST PARTY SOURCES), THE COMMITTEE HAS RELUCTANTLY CONCLUDED (REFTEL) THAT IT CAN NO LONGER WAIT AND MUST MAKE GOOD ITS STATED INTENTION TO PROCEED WITH ITS "EX-OFFICIO" ELECTION FOR FIFTY WARDS.

2. THE SAG POSITION, AS ENUNCIATED BY SEVERAL SPOKESMEN INCLUDING MINISTER OF BANTU AFFAIRS M.C. BOTHA, IS THAT ANY ELECTION FOR A MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY WILL HAVE TO BE CONDUCTED WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE WRAB-ADMINISTERED COMMUNITY COUNCIL. WHILE THERE HAD BEEN SOME OPTIMISM ON THE PART OF BLACKS AND

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VERLIGTE WHITES THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD AT LEAST CONSIDER THE COMMITTEE OF TEN BLUEPRINT, THOSE HOPES HAVE APPARENTLY NOW BEEN PUT TO REST.

3. THE WORLD NEWSPAPER, IN PERHAPS THE FINAL ACT OF A CAMPAIGN DESIGNED TO INDUCE THE SAG TO ACCEPT THE CONTENTION THAT THE COMMITTEE SPEAKS FOR MOST OF THE PEOPLE IN SOWETO, IS RUNNING AN

INFORMAL BALLOT FOR SEVERAL DAYS ENABLING BLACKS TO INDICATE
PREFERENCE BETWEEN THE COMMITTEE OF TEN AND THE COMMUNITY
COUNCIL.

4. COMMENT: WHILE IT IS A FOREGONE CONCLUSION THAT THE
COMMITTEE WILL WIN THE WORLD "ELECTION," AND PROBABLY BY A
HANDSOME MARGIN THERE IS LITTLE PROSPECT THAT THE RESULTS WILL
RECEIVE ANY ATTENTION FROM THE SAG, MUCH LESS ENCOURAGE THE SAG
TO CHANGE ITS PLANS.

WHILE WORLD EDITOR PERCY QOBOZA CAN APPRECIATE THIS FACT OF LIFE,
HIS EXERCISE WILL SERVE TO STULTIFY FURTHER THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL
SCHEME AND ANY PRETENSE IT CAN FAIRLY REPRESENT BLACK OPINION.
JOHNSON

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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